

## Local teen selected to serve as National Youth Leadership delegate

Gus Woolever of DeRidder has been selected to represent the State of Louisiana on the National Youth Leadership Council (YLC) of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

During last month's Youth Tour trip to Washington, Woolever was chosen from among 29 of his fellow Louisiana Youth Tour students to represent the state. He is sponsored by NRECA and BECi, and will return to Washington to attend the National YLC Conference, July 20-23.

The conference agenda includes leadership and team building exercises, meeting with Capitol Hill staff members who are alumni of NRECA's Rural Electric Youth Tour, and a competition to select the NRECA's National Youth Spokesperson.

"I'm very grateful to be selected and I'm excited to go back to Washington and learn more about the energy industry and America's political system," Woolever said. "It's an incredible opportunity and I'm thankful to BECi and others who make this valuable program possible." (Acct. No. 129288-001)

While in Washington, YLC members will gain a broader understanding

of cooperatives through discussions with national co-op leaders such as Jo Ann Emerson, CEO of NRECA and Sheldon Petersen, Chief Executive Officer of the



National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC).

All 44 members of the YLC, including Woolever, will participate in the 2014 NRECA Annual Meeting in Nashville. They will provide assistance to the NRECA staff and co-op delegates, participate in the Parade of States at the opening General Session, and take part in a variety of educational forums.

# BECi News



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## Local students return from Youth Tour experience

BECi recently sponsored local students Jessica Adams, Sabra Hanna, Ryne Robinson and Gus Woolever as they joined more than 1,600 other teens to participate in the 2013 Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

Each year, BECi covers all expenses to send four delegates on the Rural Electric Youth Tour, which was inspired in 1957 by Senator and future President Lyndon B. Johnson. During an address to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, he urged attendees to send young people to the nation's capital so they could see the government in action. The following summer, electric cooperatives did just that, and the Rural Electric Youth Tour was born.

Electric Cooperatives and affiliated associations across the state and nation sponsor teens for the Youth Tour program, and participants travel to Washington, D.C. during the same week in June. This year, the Louisiana Youth Tour delegation consisted of 30 high school students and five chaperones.

BECi's Youth Tour essay contest is held annually to select four high school juniors to participate in the program.

On June 14, the four winners traveled to Baton Rouge to join the other members of the Louisiana Youth Tour delegation. The students were familiar with one another because they had participated in the Youth Leadership Conference in late March to prepare for the Youth Tour trip.

During the week-long Youth Tour, the students learned about electric co-ops and took advantage of many educational and sight-seeing opportunities. The

group visited Capitol Hill to meet members of Louisiana's congressional delegation, including a meeting and discussion with Sen. David Vitter. The students then met with their respective members of the House of Representatives. Other stops on Capitol Hill included a group tour of the Capitol building, and individual tours of the Supreme Court and the Library of Congress.

The Youth Tour delegation spent much of the week touring the city. They visited the Lincoln Monument, the World War II, Vietnam, and Korean War Memorials, Arlington National Cemetery, the Iwo Jima Memorial, the White House, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial, and the newly constructed Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial. At Arlington National Cemetery, the group witnessed the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The group also visited the Smithsonian Museums, the National Archives, and the National Museum of Crime and Punishment.

While most of the week's activities



Above, the Louisiana Youth Tour delegation visits the Martin Luther King Memorial. At right, top, BECi representatives Ryne Robinson, Sabra Hanna, Jessica Adams and Gus Woolever are pictured in front of the White House. At right, bottom, the Youth Tour students visit with Rep. John Fleming on the Capitol steps.



were spent with only the Louisiana delegation, the Youth Tour also included several events providing the opportunity to interact with students from other states, including the All States Youth Day program on June 17. At this program, all Youth Tour participants joined to hear inspirational speakers and swap state-themed pins and stickers with other participants. (Acct. No. 123374-001)

Additional chances to spend time with students from other states were afforded on an evening cruise down the Potomac

River on a luxury yacht, and a dance for the students on the last evening of the Youth Tour.

The Rural Electric Youth Tour has seen many changes in the more than 50 years since its inception. In 1959, 130 youth attended the tour. The NRECA began to coordinate joint activities among the states in 1964. Today, more than 43,000 students have participated in the tour. NRECA is the national service organization representing the nation's more than 900 electric co-ops.

## BECi announces academic scholarship winners at annual meeting

Each year BECi randomly selects students within its service area to receive a scholarship to attend a Louisiana University.

These funds were made possible through legislative changes in 1993 to allow unclaimed funding to stay in local communities assisting families to further their education. (Acct. No. 8771-002)

Since its inception, BECi has awarded 109 students totaling more than \$149,000. The results of the scholarship drawing were announced during the BECi 2013 Annual Meeting at cooperative headquarters in DeRidder.

The following students were chosen for the 2013-2014 school year:

- Blake Trahan is currently attending the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL).
  - Ashley Dunnehoo is a recent graduate of Reeves High School.
  - Charlotte LeBlanc is currently a student at ULL.
  - Jordan Hebert is a recent graduate of Kinder High School.
  - Christopher Friend is a recent graduate of South Beauregard High School.
  - Hannah Austin is a recent graduate of Rosepine High School.
  - Amber Lytle is a recent graduate of Merryville High School.
- The 2014 application and requirements will be posted in January 2014. March 1, 2014, will be the deadline to apply.



Austin



Friend



Hebert



Leblanc



Lytle



Trahan

## From the Manager



By Kevin Turner  
General Manager

## Summer safety tips

When the weather gets hot, we head outdoors for sun and fun. BECi wants you to keep in mind some tips to make sure everyone has a safe summer.

### Water and electricity don't mix

Summer is the season for swimming and boating, and awareness of electrical hazards around water can prevent deaths and injuries. Water and electricity don't mix.

- Use covers on outdoor power outlets, especially near swimming pools. Keep cords and electrical devices away from the water, and never handle electrical items before you've dried off.
- Be sure to use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to help prevent electrocutions and electrical shock injuries. These devices interrupt the flow of power when they sense a surge. Portable GFCIs require no tools to install and are available at prices ranging from \$12 to \$30.

### Lightning and storms

Lightning strikes are fatal in 10 percent of all victims, and 70 percent of victims suffer serious long-term effects, according to the National Weather Service.

Because lightning can travel sideways for up to 10 miles, blue skies are not a sign of safety. If you hear thunder, take cover.

- If weather conditions indicate a storm, stay inside—away from doors and windows—or seek

shelter in a low-lying area away from trees and any metal, including sheds, clotheslines, poles, and fences. If you're near water, stay as far away as possible.

- If you're in a group, spread out—don't stand close together.
- Indoors, unplug electronics before the storm arrives, and don't use corded phones.
- Avoid plumbing—sinks, bathtubs, faucets.
- Don't forget about your pets. Doghouses are not safe from lightning, and chained animals are easy targets. (Acct. No. 99230-001)

If your home is flooded during a storm, don't turn on appliances or electronics until given the okay by an electrician. If there's laying water, don't go inside. The water could be energized.

### Working with large appliances

If your air conditioner goes out, keep a few things in mind before you start poking around. Large appliances, such as air conditioners, are responsible for almost 20 percent of consumer-product electrocutions each year.

- Understand your electrical system—know which fuse or circuit breaker controls each switch, light, and outlet.
- Make sure circuits are turned off before starting work and take measures to ensure they're not turned back on while working.
- Use a circuit tester—always test before you touch.

## You could win \$50!!

Beauregard Electric is offering its members an opportunity to win the Co-op's Lucky Account Number Contest by publishing four account numbers somewhere on pages 6-7 of Louisiana Country.

Look for your account number hidden somewhere on these pages. To win, you must locate your account number (listed on your electric bill) on these pages and then contact the Co-op. To claim your prize, call 800-367-0275 or 463-6221 by Aug. 15.

Download our Mobile App to manage your electric bill. Visit the App Store and search for BECi.



Your Cooperative Connection

# LOUISIANA COUNTRY

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## Washington Youth Tour

*Local students take the trip of a lifetime*

Jessica Adams, Sabra Hanna,  
Ryne Robinson and Gus Woolever  
are shown visiting Capitol Hill

